

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A packaging container according to claim 21 wherein the at least one region of discontinuity is in the form of a line of cuts ~~single shaped cut~~.
4. (Currently Amended) A packaging container according to claim 21 wherein said at least one region of discontinuity is in the form of at least two converging lines of cuts.
5. (Previously Presented) A packaging container according to claim 4 wherein a region of the label layer located between the at least one of cuts, slots and perforations forms a flap member movable separately from the label layer.
6. (Currently Amended) A packaging container ~~according to claim 5~~ wherein comprising:
a wall with a small aperture in the wall, and

a label comprising a label layer carrying an adhesive on one face thereof and which secures the label to the wall of the packaging container, said label being formed with at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer, said at least one region of discontinuity being in the form of at least one of the following:

cuts,

slots and

perforations

which penetrate the label layer to form a valve member separably connected to the label, the valve member being adhered to the packaging container in overlying relation to the small aperture, and said at least one of cuts, slots and perforations are interrupted by portions of material of the label which act to tie the valve member to said label, said at least one region of discontinuity is in the form of at least two converging lines of cuts, a region of the label layer located between the at least one of cuts, slots and perforations forms a flap member movable separately from the label layer, and said flap member is provided with one of a fold, scored and creased region which serves to impart a hinge action assisting movement of the flap member.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A pressure relief valve for a packaging container in the form of a member which at least partially wraps around a product packaging of a dish format container, said pressure relief valve comprising a backing layer carrying a release material on one face and a label layer carrying an adhesive on an opposite face to secure the member to the product packaging, said opposite face being adapted to adhere to the backing layer and being separable therefrom for application to the product packaging, and said member being formed with at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer, said at least one region of discontinuity being in the form of at least one of the following:

cuts,

slots and

perforations

which penetrate the label layer to form a valve member separably connected to the label, the valve member being adapted to be adhered to the packaging container in overlying relation to a small aperture therein, and said at least one of cuts, slots and perforations are interrupted by portions of material of the label which act to tie the valve member to said label layer.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A pressure relief valve according to claim 8 wherein the at least one region of discontinuity is in the form of a line of cuts ~~single shaped cut~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A pressure relief valve according to claim 8 wherein said at least one region of discontinuity is in the form of at least two converging lines of cuts.

12. (Currently Amended) A pressure relief valve according to claim 11 wherein a region of the label layer located between the at least one of cuts, slots and perforations forms a flap member movable separately from the label layer ~~member~~.

13. (Previously Presented) A pressure relief valve according to claim 12 wherein said flap member is provided with one of a fold, scored and creased region which serves to impart a hinge action assisting movement of the flap member.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A pressure relief valve according to claim 8 in combination with a sealant arrangement for said container.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating the safe removal of steam from packaging of a food product in a dish-format container, comprising the steps of:

placing a sealant film over the container,
making a small aperture in the sealant film,
forming a product identification member including a label layer,

forming at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer in the form of at least one of the following:

cuts,
slots and
perforations

which penetrate the label layer to form a flap member separably connected to the product identification member and with said at least one of cuts, slots and perforations being interrupted by portions of material of the label layer,

applying an adhesive on one face of the label layer,
applying the product identification member over said sealant film such that the flap member is adhered to the container in overlying relation to the small aperture, and such that said portions of material of the label layer which interrupt said at least one of cuts, slots and perforations act to tie the flap

member to said label layer, wherein pressure created within the container when the food product is heated vents through the flap member which acts as a valve.

18. (Currently Amended) A packaged product comprising a dish-like container to retain the product covered with a sealant arrangement of one of a sealant film, wrap and lid, with an aperture formed in the sealant arrangement and a member having one of a flap, vent and valve formed therein applied to the sealant arrangement such that the one of the flap, vent and valve is located over the aperture formed in the sealant arrangement, the member including a label layer carrying an adhesive on one face thereof and which secures the label to a wall of the container, said member being formed with at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer, said at least one region of discontinuity being in the form of at least one of the following:

cuts,

slots and

perforations

which penetrate the label layer to form a valve member separably connected to the member, the valve member being adhered to the container in overlying relation to the aperture, and said at least one of cuts, slots and perforations are interrupted by

portions of material of the member which act to tie the valve member to said member.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A packaging container comprising:
a wall with a small aperture in the wall, and
a label comprising a label layer carrying an adhesive on one face thereof and which secures the label to the wall of the packaging container, said label being formed with at least one region of discontinuity in the label layer, said at least one region of discontinuity being in the form of at least one of the following:

cuts,

slots and

perforations

which penetrate the label layer to form a valve member separably connected to the label, the valve member being adhered to the packaging container in overlying relation to the small aperture, and said at least one of cuts, slots and perforations are interrupted by portions of material of the label which act to tie the valve member to said label.